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**CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS:
AUGUST 1982**

**Office of Analysis and Evaluation
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of almost 7,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. It describes the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in August 1982.

Over 20 million people in the United States received food stamp benefits in August 1982. The results presented here portray a cross section of this caseload after the implementation of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981. At the time these data were gathered:

- o The average gross income of all participating households was \$356 per month. Almost 8 percent reported no gross income for the month. Over 42 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was less than half of the Bureau of Census poverty guidelines; nearly 95 percent were below the poverty line.
- o Nearly 42 percent of all food stamp households also received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Eighteen percent had earned income. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) were received by 19 percent and 18 percent of all food stamp households, respectively.
- o The average deduction from gross income was \$159 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by 67 percent of all food stamp households. About 18 percent claimed a deduction for earned income. Both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently--by about 2 percent of all food stamp households--but they provided a substantial deduction for those households able to claim them.

- o The average monthly food stamp benefit was \$105 per household. Nearly 19 percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit. About 8 percent received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to all participating one- and two-person households.
- o When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households with income below the poverty line fell from 95 percent to 92 percent. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households: the income of 27 percent of the participating households rose to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit.
- o The average food stamp household included 2.8 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. Households with school-age children included an average of 3.7 people. Households with earned income averaged 3.7 people. Households with elderly members were typically smaller, averaging only 1.6 persons. Over half of all food stamp households had only one or two people.
- o Approximately 70 percent of the heads of food stamp households were women. The average age of female household heads was 41 years; the average age of male heads was 43 years.
- o Forty-seven percent of all the people participating in the Food Stamp Program were children (less than 18 years old). Eight percent were elderly (60 years old or older). About 3 percent were disabled. Thus, about 60 percent of all food stamp participants were either very young, very old, or disabled.
- o Twenty-one percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Almost 90 percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well). After adjusting for the differences in average household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income, and consequently lower benefits, than households with no elderly members. Only 8 percent of the households with elderly members had a gross income that was less than half of the poverty line. Over 29 percent received the \$10 minimum benefit.
- o Approximately 18 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income. These

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households tended to be larger than average and had relatively high income (\$543 per month, on average). About 63 percent of these households had no additional income beyond their earnings.

- o Fifty-eight percent of all participating food stamp households included children. These households were predominantly headed by women. Households with children were typically larger and had higher incomes than those without children.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program is a nationwide program which helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain an adequate diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and run through State welfare agencies and their local offices. An average of 20.4 million people in the 50 States, Guam and the Virgin Islands received food stamp benefits each month during fiscal year 1982 at a total cost of over \$10 billion.

Because food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the Food Stamp Program can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (for example, mothers with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the Food Stamp Program is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress. Thus, program participants are likely to represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of about 7,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The purpose of this report is to describe in detail the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in August 1982. It is

intended to serve as a supplement to two recently released Food and Nutrition Service reports: Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: August 1981 and The Effects of Legislative Changes in 1981 and 1982 on Food Stamp Program Benefits: Interim Report to Congress. These two reports provide more information on the legislative history of the Food Stamp Program, trends in the characteristics of food stamp households, and economic changes which affected participation, cost and benefit levels.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the Food Stamp Program in August 1982. Chapter 2 describes August 1982 food stamp household circumstances in some detail. Chapter 3 presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in August 1982. The appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables and a brief description of the sample design. The reference population for the discussion which follows and for the detailed tables in chapter 3 is the August 1982 food stamp population in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Both the structure of the Food Stamp Program and the characteristics of program participants change over time. As eligibility requirements established by Congress change, the number and characteristics of participating households change. Similarly, the economic health of the Nation or underlying demographic trends may alter the need for program benefits in general or in particular segments of the population. This chapter provides some background on the general context of the Food Stamp Program in August 1982.

The chapter begins with an overview of the eligibility requirements that were in place in August 1982 and a brief description of legislation implemented since August 1981, the most recent prior period for which participant characteristics are reported. This is followed by a brief summary of total program costs, participation and economic conditions in 1982.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN AUGUST 1982¹

Each household had to meet certain uniform standards to qualify for food stamp benefits in August 1982. These included an income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Income Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for food stamps, most households' gross income had to fall below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. For those households with elderly or disabled members, net income after certain allowable deductions from its gross income had to be less than 100 percent of the poverty guidelines. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few

¹ This discussion is based on the structure of the Food Stamp Program as it existed in August 1982. While many of the rules described are still in place, some are not. The Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 modified several aspects of the program beginning in Fiscal Year 1983. Because these changes were not in place in August 1982 and did not affect the eligibility or benefits of the food stamp households described in this report, they are not discussed here. The reader should not interpret this section as a description of the current Food Stamp Program.

specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross income to determine its net income:

- o A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was \$85 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in August 1982.
- o An earned income deduction for working households equal to 18 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- o A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment.
- o An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income remaining after all other deductions were taken. For most households, the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions could, not exceed a maximum set by law and adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The limit in August 1982 for households living in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$115.² Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit--they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.
- o In addition, households with an elderly or disabled member could qualify for a special medical deduction. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible.

² Both the standard deduction and the ceiling on the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix D for the value of each in August 1982.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The Food Stamp Program income limits are adjusted each July to correspond to the most recent OMB poverty guidelines. In August 1982, a four-person family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of \$775 and a gross income of \$1,008 or less.³

Resource Eligibility Standards

The value of assets available to a household further restricted program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to \$1,500 in countable resources. Households with two or more people, at least one of whom was 60 years old or older, were allowed up to \$3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets which could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also included such nonliquid assets as personal property, vehicles, buildings, and land. The family home and lot, one family car if under \$4,500 in value, and tools of a trade or business property used in earning the family income were not counted.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. Parents, under 60 years old, living with their children were counted as a single household. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The Food Stamp Program included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- o People under 18 or over 60 years of age.

³ Separate income limits were also computed for both Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix C for the full array for each household size.

- o Physically or mentally disabled people.
- o People participating in AFDC's work incentive program (WIN).
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults.
- o Caretakers of dependent children less than 18 years old in households where another able-bodied parent was registered for work or working full time.
- o People receiving unemployment compensation.
- o Participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- o People who were working at least 30 hours per week.
- o Selected types of students.

An active job search was required of some work registrants. Furthermore, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 60 days.

Benefit Computation

The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) adjusted for different household sizes. The maximum allotments are revised periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 States and the District of Columbia was \$233 per month in August 1982.⁴

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month.

⁴ Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotments for each household size in the 48 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are shown in appendix E.

RECENT
LEGISLATIVE
CHANGES

The August 1982 characteristics do not reflect the most recent changes made to the Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (Public Law 97-253) enacted a number of measures that changed eligibility and benefit determination rules. Among other changes this law:

- o Reestablished a net income screen at 100 percent of poverty (in addition to the gross income screen) for households with no elderly or disabled members.
- o Rounded household benefits and adjustments to the maximum allotments, standard deduction and dependent care/excess shelter cap to the nearest lower dollar.
- o Reduced the Thrifty Food Plan by one percent when adjusted on October 1, 1982; October 1, 1983; and October 1, 1984.
- o Delayed the cost-of-living adjustment to the standard deduction and the dependent care/excess shelter cap.
- o Eliminated initial prorated allotments less than \$10.
- o Further restricted the eligibility of college students.
- o Tightened provisions for claiming the standard utility allowance.

Implementation of the 1982 Amendments began in October 1982.

CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS IN AUGUST 1982

Approximately 20.4 million people in 7.5 million households received food stamp benefits in August 1982.⁵ This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross section of the program's caseload just after the implementation of program changes required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and the Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981, but prior to the changes required by the 1982 Amendments. Most of the information in this chapter deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of Chapter 3.

GROSS MONTHLY
INCOME

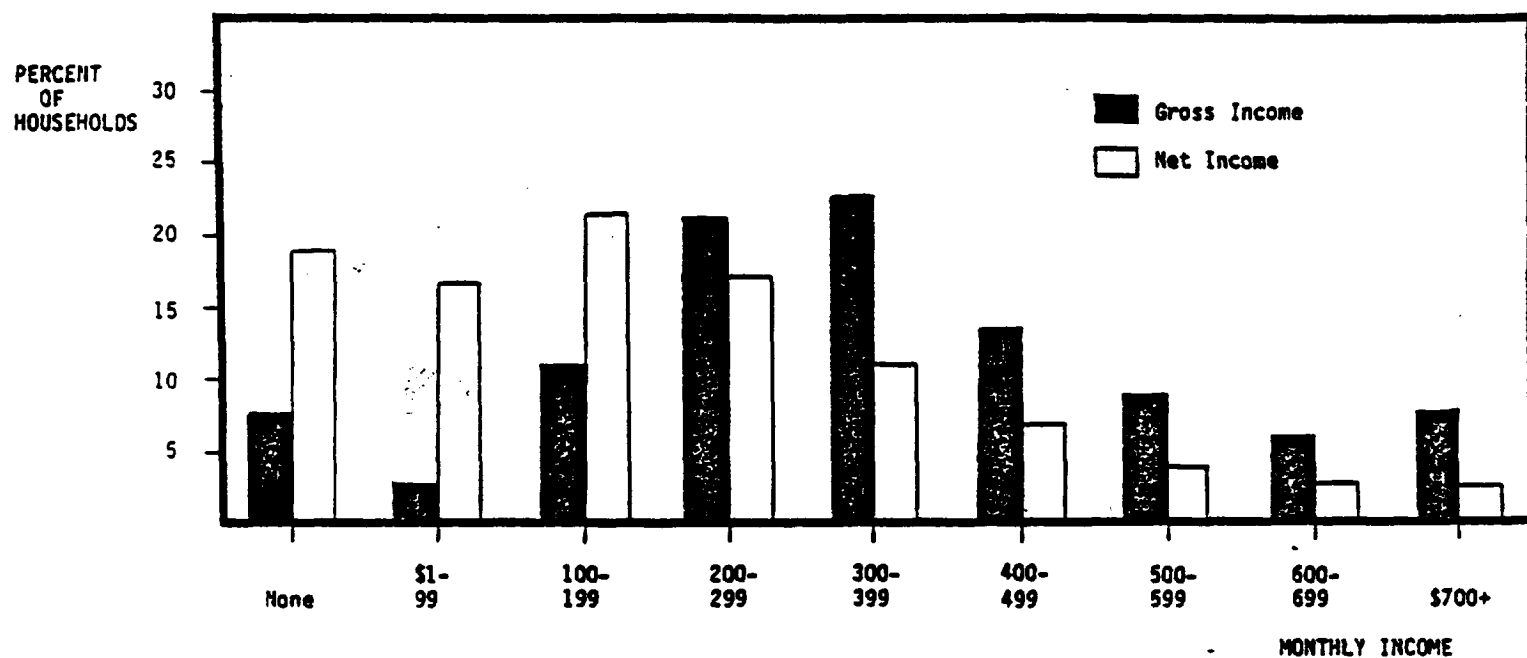
The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was \$356 per month.⁶ Almost 8 percent reported no gross income in August 1982; 42 percent reported a monthly income of less than \$300 (see figure 1). Only 13 percent had monthly income in excess of \$600.

The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Forty-eight percent of all households with income below \$300 were single-person households. Two-thirds of all single-person households had an income below \$300, compared to just

⁵ The information reported here and in chapter 3 is limited to August 1982 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

⁶ It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.

FIGURE 1 - Distribution of Food Stamp Households By Monthly Income
August 1982



Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

13 percent of those with at least five members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits varied with household size, making small households ineligible at lower income levels than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tended to increase with household size. The average public assistance payment (including both AFDC and General Assistance) to food stamp households receiving such payments, for example, ranged from \$150 in one-person households to \$384 in households with eight or more persons. In addition, larger households were more likely to have earned income in substantial amounts; only 8 percent of the one-person households reported earnings, averaging \$140 per month, while 23 percent of the four-person households reported average earnings of \$424 per month, and 42 percent of the households with eight or more people reported earnings of \$680.

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with respect to the official definition of poverty.⁷ As shown in table 1, over 40 percent of all food stamp households had total incomes that were less than or equal to half of the poverty guidelines; nearly 95 percent were below the poverty line.

⁷ The definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The Office of Management and Budget and the Bureau of Census poverty guidelines used by the Food Stamp Program in August 1982 are shown in appendix B. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's net or gross income limits. Because household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month, but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for 1 or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty line. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes were well below the poverty line.

Table 1--Poverty status of food stamp households,
August 1982

Gross income as a percent of poverty ^a	Percentage of all households	Cumulative percentage
50% or less	42.1	42.1
51 to 100%	52.5	94.6
101% or more	5.4	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	7,487	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^a Weighted average Bureau of Census poverty thresholds
by family size.

NET MONTHLY INCOME

A household's net income was determined by subtracting certain allowable deductions from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's monthly benefit. Average net income was \$205 per month in August 1982. Nearly 19 percent of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income (see figure 1). These households received the maximum coupon allotment. About three-quarters of all participating households had net income less than \$300 per month, and 95 percent had net income under \$600 a month.

SOURCE OF INCOME

As table 2 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (AFDC, Social Security, and SSI). At the same time, there was a substantial number of households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. Nearly 93 percent of all households had income from at least one of these sources.

Aid to Families With Dependent Children

Nearly 42 percent of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented \$83 from other sources with a \$308 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of \$391 per month. Seventy-six percent of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant. About 7 percent had earnings, 8 percent also received SSI, and 7 percent received Social Security or other retirement benefits.

Earned Income

Eighteen percent of all food stamp households reported income from salaries, wages, and self-employment. Households with earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people. Average earnings amounted to \$450 out of an average gross income of \$543 per month. About 63 percent of these households reported no income other than earnings. Approximately 21 percent received AFDC in addition to their earnings.

Social Security

About 19 percent of participating food stamp households received income from Social Security, averaging about \$273 per month. About 41 percent of these households had no other source of income; about 39 percent also received SSI.

Supplemental Security Income

Nearly 17 percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average SSI benefit was \$199 per month. This was the only source of income for 26 percent of these households. Another 52 percent received SSI in combination with Social Security and other retirement benefits.

Table 2--Major sources of income among food stamp households,
August 1982

(Number in thousands)

Source of Income	Food Stamp Households	
	Number	Percent ^a
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	3,110	41.5%
Earnings ^b	1,316	17.6
Social Security	1,387	18.5
Supplemental Security Income	1,272	17.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^a Because households may have income from more than one source, these percentages are not additive.

^b Includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME

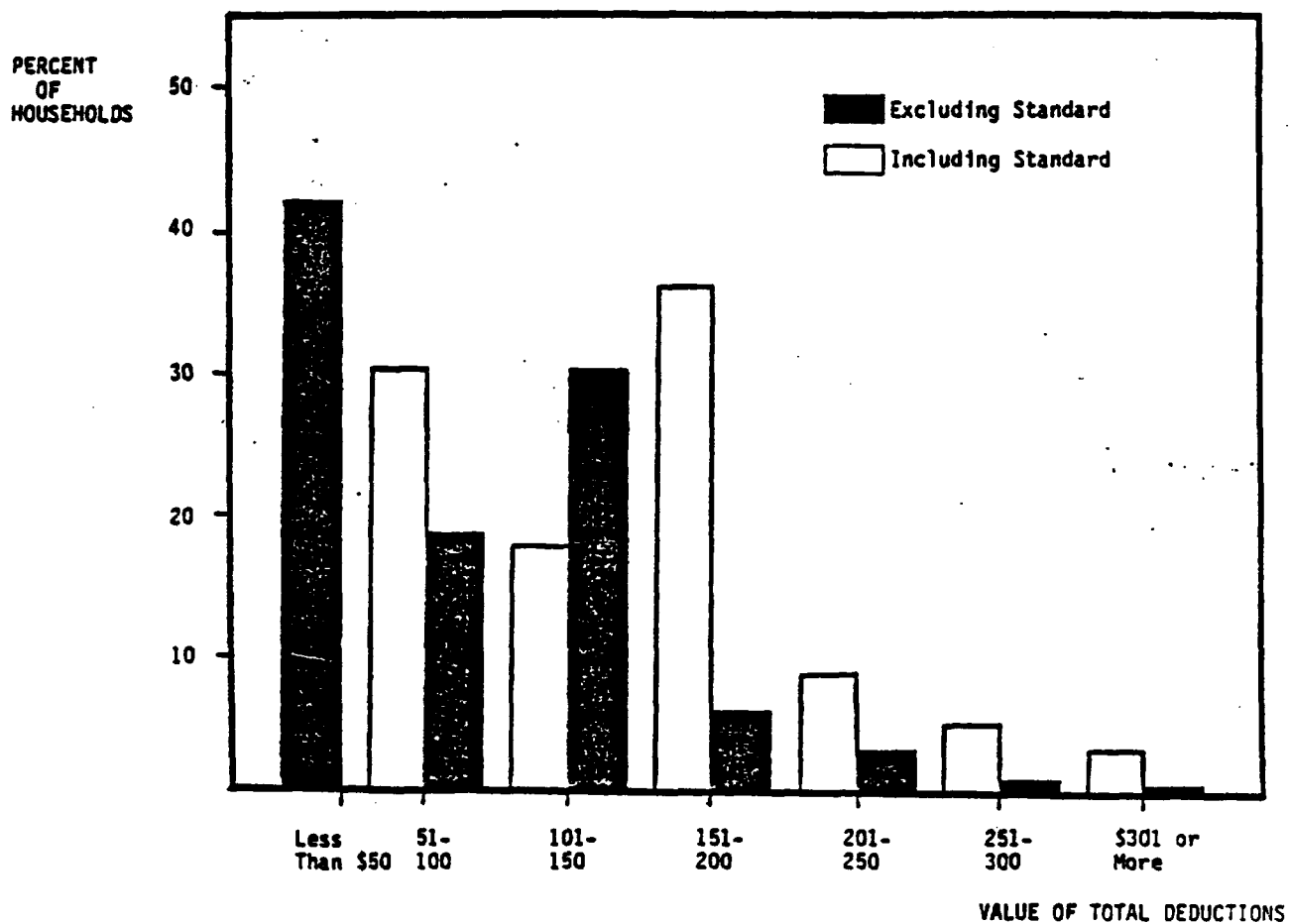
The Food Stamp Act provides for standardized deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits. In August 1982 these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for earners, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. The combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions was capped for all nonelderly and nondisabled households. The deductions were designed to compensate for certain expenses which make gross income an inaccurate measure of the need for food stamp benefits.

Almost 74 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was \$159 per month.⁸ The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was \$74 per month (see figure 2).

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied dramatically. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by 67 percent of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it was \$85 per month. Twenty-seven percent of all food stamp households (and over 42 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the ceiling placed on the combined value of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions. Four percent of all food stamp households (15 percent of the elderly and disabled households), exempted from the ceiling, were entitled to a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these households was \$183 per month.

⁸ A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Households with total deductions greater than their gross income "used" only a portion of their deduction entitlement since any negative net incomes were treated as zero in computing benefits. The value of the deductions actually used in August 1982, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was \$151, or 95 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

Figure 2 -- Distribution of Participating Food Stamp Households By Value of All Deductions
August 1982



Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Approximately 18 percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging \$81 per month. When earned income was present, it was typically present in substantial amounts. Thus many households with earnings were able to claim sizable deductions: 38 percent were entitled to a deduction of more than \$100 a month.

Both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by about 2 percent of all participating households and by about 9 percent of those with earned income. Among those with the deduction, the average claim was \$84 per month. Similarly, the medical deduction was claimed by about 2 percent of all participating households but by about 11 percent of all households with elderly members. The average claim among those with the deduction was \$51.

FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

The average monthly food stamp benefit reported in this survey was \$105 per household (or about \$37.60 per person).⁹ Over half of all participating households received benefits between \$50 and \$150 per month. Nearly 8 percent of the households received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two-person households.

About 77 percent of the households with minimum benefits had at least one elderly member. This high proportion of elderly households was caused by two characteristics. First, elderly participants were typically found in smaller households: 88 percent of the households with elderly contained only one or two persons. Second, households with elderly were

⁹ In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, Food Stamp Program administrative data for August 1982 show an average benefit of \$106 per household and \$38.53 per person (Food Stamp Program Update for August 1982, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA). Most of the difference is due to sampling error. Because the August 1982 survey is based on a sample of food stamp households, there is some uncertainty associated with a point estimate such as average benefit. In addition, the population from which the Food Stamp Quality Control sample is selected excludes certain categories of households (see appendix F). If the average benefit among the excluded households is higher than average, estimates from the Quality Control sample will be lower than those from program data.

relatively better off than those with nonelderly members: the per capita gross and net incomes of elderly households were about twice as high as those of households with no elderly. Thus, they were more likely to be protected by the minimum benefit than other households.

Effect on Poverty Status

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the Food Stamp Program is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 3 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.¹⁰

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line decreased from 95 percent to 92 percent. In other words, 3 percent of the participating households were moved above the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households: over a quarter of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households with incomes above the poverty line increased 60 percent (from 5 to 8 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by nearly two-thirds (from 42 to 15 percent).

¹⁰ This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty, Washington, D.C., 1982.

Table 3--Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status
of food stamp households, August 1982

Income as a percentage of poverty	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash income only	Based on income and food stamp benefit	
50% or less	42.1%	15.3%	-26.8
51 to 100%	52.5	76.2	+23.7
101% or more	5.3	8.5	+ 3.2
Number of households (in thousands)	7,487	7,487	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

ASSETS

The August 1982 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Over three-fourths of the food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 21 percent had countable assets of \$500 or less. Households with elderly or disabled members had somewhat higher asset levels, but few had more than \$1,000 in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit (\$3,000 for each household with at least two members). Across all households, countable assets averaged \$58 in August 1982, while households with elderly members had an average of \$145.

CASELOAD
COMPOSITION

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.8 persons in August 1982, but there was considerable variation among different household types. The average for households with school age children, for example, was 3.7 persons. Households with earned income and households with children both averaged 3.7 persons. Households with elderly contained an average of only 1.6 persons. Over one-half of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (70 percent). The typical household was led by a woman, with an average age of 41 years. The average age of male household heads was 43 years. Overall, half of all household heads were between 27 and 55 years old. Forty-six percent were white, 37 percent black, and about 10 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps was substantially different from the age distribution of household heads. Forty-seven percent of all food stamp participants were 17 years old or younger. Another 8 percent were 60 years or older, and approximately 3 percent were disabled. Thus, nearly 60 percent of all food stamp participants were either very young, very old, or disabled.

About 59 percent of all program participants were female. Female adults, ages 18 to 59 years, outnumbered their male counterparts by over 2 to 1. This in large part reflected the sizable number of food stamp households that also received AFDC. It also should be noted that the poverty rate among households headed by females in 1982 was 42 percent--almost three times the overall rate.

Most participating food stamp households could be categorized into a few overlapping but fairly discrete groups: mothers with dependent children, low income households with earners, and the elderly. As table 4 shows, 72 percent of all food stamp

Table 4--Food stamp caseload composition, August 1982
(Number in thousands)

Household Type	Food Stamp Households	
	Number	Percent
Female head with children	2,693	36.0
Elderly	1,284	17.2
Earner	658	8.8
Female head/earner	563	7.5
Elderly/earner	85	1.1
Elderly/female head	89	1.2
Female head/elderly/earner	9	0.1
None of the above	<u>2,105</u>	<u>28.1</u>
Total	7,487	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

households fell into one or more of these groups: 45 percent were headed by women with dependent children, 18 percent were households reporting earned income, and 20 percent had at least one elderly member. Only 28 percent did not belong to any of these groups.

Households With Children

Almost 80 percent of all food stamp benefits in August 1982 were issued to households with children, somewhat more than 60 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (76 percent).

Households with children were typically larger and had higher income than households without children. The average household size was 3.7 persons in those households with children, compared to an average of 1.5 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was \$406 per month, compared to \$287 per month in those without children. Households with children received an average benefit of \$142 per month (or \$38 per person) while those without children received \$52 per month (or \$35 per person).

Over three-quarters of the households headed by women with children received public assistance. The average size of these households was 3.4 people. These households had an average gross income of \$376, an average net income of \$212, and an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$137 (or \$40 per person).

Households With Elderly

Households with elderly members accounted for almost 20 percent of the total food stamp caseload in August 1982 but since they were smaller on average and had relatively higher income, they received less than 8 percent of all benefits issued that month. Over forty-four percent of all one-person households were elderly (that is, single elderly persons living alone or certified as a separate food stamp unit within a larger household). Eighty-eight percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person. Nearly 69 percent of all elderly households were headed by women, about 56 percent were single elderly women living alone and 13 percent were living with others.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Only 8 percent had a gross income below half of the poverty line. Average gross income per person was nearly twice as high among the elderly--\$228 versus \$115 per month.

Similarly, the average net income of \$137 per person in elderly households was double the \$66 per person found in other households. Thus, average benefits

per person were substantially less among the elderly--\$26 versus \$39 per month. Over 29 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum \$10 benefit, compared to 2 percent of the households without elderly persons.

About 88 percent of the elderly households had income from either Social Security or SSI. About 35 percent had income from both. As a result of this coverage, elderly households were less likely than nonelderly households (2 percent versus 9 percent) to report the absence of all income. Only 6 percent of the households with elderly reported earned income, however.

Households With Earned Income

Eighteen percent of the food stamp households reported income earned income in August 1982. They received a similar share (19.5 percent) of benefits issued that month. About 8 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 4 percent were working part time and 1 percent were self-employed. Someone other than the household head was the primary wage earner in the remaining households.

As noted in the earlier discussion of income sources, households with earned income were generally larger than average and somewhat more likely to include children. Because of the relatively large average earnings (\$450 per month) and the higher income limits faced by these households, their gross income was substantially larger than that of households without earnings (\$543 versus \$316). They received an average per capita benefit of about \$31, compared to \$40 among households without earned income.

OTHER PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Work Registration

Able-bodied food stamp participants were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 5 shows that over 40 percent of all adult participants (that is, those who, on the basis of age alone, could reasonably be presumed able to work) were either employed full time or met the work registration requirements of the Food Stamp Program, AFDC, or unemployment insurance (UI). Another 43 percent of all the adults in the program were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults. About 13 percent of the adults were exempted because of disability.

Of all food stamp participants, 58 percent were exempted on the basis of their age. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the Food Stamp Program. The second most frequent exemption, for caretakers of children and incapacitated adults, accounted for 18 percent of all

Table 5--Work registration status of food stamp participants,
August 1982

Work registration status	Percentage of adult participants ^a	Percentage of all participants ^a
<u>Meeting work requirement:</u>		
Registered for work	24.9	10.4
Exempted from food stamp registration:		
Employed full-time	8.4	3.4
WIN participants	6.9	2.9
UI recipients	3.2	1.3
<u>Exempted from work requirement:</u>		
Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	42.7	17.7
Disabled	12.7	5.6
Residents of drug addiction/ alcohol treatment center	0.3	0.1
Students	0.8	0.5
Less than 18 or over 60 years old	---	58.0
Total number of participants ^b (in thousands)	7,969	20,706

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^a Percent of those participants with known work registration status.

^b Total number of adult participants includes approximately 105,000 participants whose work registration status was not recorded. Total number of all participants includes approximately 226,000 participants with unknown work registration status.

participants. About 10 percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work. Approximately 11 percent of all households with work registrants had more than one.

Expedited Service

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 required expedited processing of applications from households that had no net income or that had lost the source of their current income and expected no additional income within 10 days of the application. Households which met these requirements and were otherwise eligible were entitled to receive their food stamp benefits within 3 days. (The normal application processing standard was 30 days.) Of the 640,000 applications approved in August 1982, 167,000 (or 26 percent) were approved under the expedited procedures. While this is a substantial portion of the approved applications, the number of households that received expedited service was about 2 percent of the total number of households participating that month.

The characteristics of these households reflected the eligibility requirements for expedited service. Their average gross income of \$88 per month was one-fourth the average for all households, and 76 percent reported no income at all. Similarly, their average net income of \$35 per month was less than one-fifth of the overall average, and 83 percent had no net income after taking the allowable deductions. Their average benefit was \$116 per month. Households that received expedited service were somewhat smaller than average (2.2 versus 2.8 persons).

Certification Periods

In August 1982, about 24 percent of all food stamp households were participating for the first time or participating again after an absence of at least 30 days. For the remaining 76 percent, the most recent action was a recertification of their previously determined food stamp eligibility.

Food stamp certification periods, that is, the length of time before a household's eligibility must be recertified, varied from household to household. Each household was assigned the longest certification period possible based on the likelihood of changes in its financial circumstances. The average certification period among households participating in August 1982 was 7.5 months.¹¹

¹¹ Two cautionary points should be made. First, the average certification period reported here does not represent the length of continuous participation in the program. It counts only the length of the current certification period. Households with relatively stable circumstances

Certification periods assigned to households that had been previously certified for food stamps, while not substantially different, tended to be somewhat longer than those assigned to households applying for the first time (see table 6). The length of the certification period did depend on the characteristics of the household. The average period was 10 months for households with elderly and seven months for those with children. Households receiving public assistance had an average period of eight months, while those with earned income were certified for an average of five months. Households that were given expedited service in August 1982 were certified for just under four months.

may be certified several times without interrupting program benefits. Second, given current expectations regarding turnover in the Food Stamp Program, this figure probably overstates the actual certification period assigned to all participants over the course of a year. Those with very short periods (1 or 2 months), for example, are probably underrepresented in a monthly cross-sectional sample.

Table 6--Average length of certification period, August 1982
(In months)

	Initial Application	Recertification	All Households
Households with:			
Elderly	8.8	10.4	10.1
Public assistance	8.3	8.1	7.9
Children	5.5	6.9	6.5
Earned income	4.8	5.6	5.4
Expedited service	3.8	---	3.8
All households	6.4	7.9	7.6

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

CHAPTER 3: DETAILED TABLES FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- o Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- o Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- o Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits.
- o Average amount of countable resources.
- o Age, race, and sex of food stamp participants.
- o Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- o Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, and with school-age children.
- o Summary comparisons of survey results in November 1979, August 1980, August 1981, and August 1982.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in August 1982.

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Table 1

AGGREGATE AUGUST 1982 PARTICIPATION TOTALS

Area	Number of Households (000)	Number of People (000)	Value of Benefits (000)
United States	7,487	20,434	\$786,581
Continental U.S.	7,444	20,318	779,256
Alaska, Hawaii	43	116	7,325
Outlying Areas ^a	13	55	2,959
Total	7,500	20,489	\$789,540

Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations, August 1982.

^aIncludes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Participants in the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program are not included.

Table 2
AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED NATIONAL
CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS

	All Households
Gross Monthly Income	\$356
Net Monthly Income	\$205
Total Deduction ^a	\$159
Countable Resources	\$58
Monthly Benefit	\$105
Household Size	2.8
Certification Period	7.5

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction. Value of standard deduction and limit on combined dependent care/excess shelter deduction varies by area (See Appendix C).

Table 3
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS
WITH SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Zero Gross Income	580	7.8%
Zero Net Income	1,413	18.9
Minimum Benefit ^a	564	7.5
Elderly ^b	1,469	19.6
Children ^c	4,360	58.2
School Age Children ^d	3,311	44.2
Disabled ^e	491	6.6

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Table 4

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS AND NET
MONTHLY INCOME

Amount of Monthly Income	Gross Income		Net Income	
	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
None	580	7.8%	1,413	18.9%
\$ 1- 99	198	2.7	1,246	16.7
100-199	815	10.9	1,601	21.4
200-299	1,578	21.1	1,263	16.9
300-399	1,681	22.5	831	11.1
400-499	983	13.2	496	6.6
500-599	630	8.4	277	3.7
600-699	450	6.0	182	2.4
700-799	256	3.4	73	1.0
800-899	143	1.9	43	0.6
900-999	68	0.9	23	0.3
1000 +	87	1.2	24	0.3
Unknown	19	--	15	--
Total	7,487	100.0	7,487	100.0
Average Income	-\$356		\$205	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of households with known income.

Table 5

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	289	105	78	50	29	14	8	8	580	7.8%
\$ 1- 99	126	33	16	13	4	6	0	0	198	2.7
100-199	430	175	127	62	16	3	2	0	815	10.9
200-299	671	477	262	97	45	13	6	7	1,578	21.1
300-399	594	314	442	201	79	22	14	14	1,681	22.5
400-499	134	309	171	206	100	36	13	15	983	13.2
500-599	12	119	209	137	62	54	17	20	630	8.4
600-699	4	33	101	156	107	28	13	8	450	6.0
700-799	0	1	45	85	46	40	16	23	256	3.4
800-899	0	2	*	28	62	21	18	12	143	1.9
900-999	0	0	0	13	28	15	3	9	68	0.9
1000 +	*	0	0	1	11	28	23	24	87	1.2
Unknown	6	1	2	2	4	4	0	0	19	--
Number of Households	2,267	1,566	1,453	1,050	594	285	133	139	7,487	100.0
Percent of All Households	30.3	20.9	19.4	14.0	7.9	3.8	1.8	1.9	100.0	
Average Gross Income	\$231	303	365	446	537	597	667	684	\$356	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

*Less than 500 households.

^aPercent of those households with known income.

Table 6

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Net Monthly Income	Household Size								Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	745	273	195	102	51	27	10	9	1,413	18.9%
\$ 1- 99	474	391	221	108	33	6	8	5	1,246	16.7
100-199	569	390	402	148	62	16	9	6	1,601	21.4
200-299	386	248	252	216	101	33	12	15	1,263	16.9
300-399	86	204	190	172	91	50	15	23	831	11.1
400-499	1	53	147	149	71	40	18	16	496	6.6
500-599	0	8	44	105	71	26	12	12	277	3.7
600-699	*	0	1	43	70	39	13	15	182	2.4
700-799	0	0	0	6	27	14	12	13	73	1.0
800-899	0	0	0	*	10	18	7	8	43	0.6
900-999	0	0	0	0	2	11	4	6	23	0.3
1000 +	0	0	*	*	0	0	12	12	24	0.3
Unknown	5	0	1	1	4	4	0	0	15	--
Number of Households	2,267	1,566	1,453	1,050	594	285	133	139	7,487	
Percent of All Households	30.3	20.9	19.4	14.0	7.9	3.8	1.8	1.9	100.0	
Average Net Income	\$103	149	200	282	365	433	484	541	\$205	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

*Less than 500 households.

^aPercent of those households with known income.

Table 7
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME SOURCE

Amount of Monthly Income From Specified Source	Earned Income ^a		Social Security & Other Pensions ^b		AFDC or General Assistance ^b		SSI		Other Income	
	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Percent ^b
	(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)	
None	6,157	82.4%	5,680	76.0%	3,677	49.2%	6,144	82.2%	6,695	89.6%
\$ 1-99	146	2.0	55	0.7	294	3.9	341	4.6	329	4.4
100-199	175	2.3	390	5.2	869	11.6	327	4.4	191	2.6
200-299	145	1.9	530	7.1	936	12.5	526	7.0	97	1.3
300-399	144	1.9	405	5.4	834	11.2	74	1.0	65	0.9
400-499	111	1.5	205	2.7	484	6.5	34	0.5	43	0.6
500-599	169	2.3	102	1.4	207	2.8	23	0.3	33	0.4
600-699	158	2.1	51	0.7	148	2.0	4	*	5	0.1
700-799	125	1.7	31	0.4	6	0.1	2	*	9	0.1
800-899	69	0.9	16	0.2	8	0.1	**	*	5	0.1
900-999	35	0.5	9	0.1	5	0.1	0	0.0	2	*
1000+	37	0.5	1	*	6	0.1	**	*	2	*
Unknown	15	--	12	--	12	--	12	--	11	--
Number of Households	7,487	100.0	7,487	100.0	7,487	100.0	7,487	100.0	7,487	100.0
Households With Income	1,316	17.6	1,795	24.0	3,797	50.8	1,332	17.8	781	10.4
Average Amount of Income ^c	\$450		315		291		199		181	
Average Gross Income ^c	\$543		410		365		376		407	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^bPercent of those households with known income.

^cFor households with income from specified source.

*Less than 0.05 percent.

**Less than 500 households.

Table 8

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, AVERAGE INCOME, AND AVERAGE BENEFIT
BY SELECTED INCOME SOURCES

Income Source	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households	Average Income Amount ^a		Average Benefit ^a
			Gross	From Source	
Earned Income:					
Wages and salaries	1,111	14.8%	\$576	\$483	\$115
Self-employment	92	1.2	404	267	142
Other earned income	36	0.5	345	202	117
Unearned Income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	3,110	41.5	391	308	137
General Assistance (GA)	541	7.2	228	160	81
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1,332	17.8	375	199	48
Social Security	1,387	18.5	393	273	51
Other retirement benefits	97	1.3	421	315	45
Unemployment Insurance (UI)	120	1.6	529	416	101
Workmen's Compensation	13	0.2	498	315	107
Veterans Administration	53	0.7	401	148	72
No income:	580	7.8	0		124
Total ^b	7,487	100.0	356		105

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aAveraged over households with income from specified source.

^bSum of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

Table 9

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Gross Income as a Percentage of the Poverty Line ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c		Households With Children ^d	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
25% or less	1,075	14.4	48	3.2	57	2.9	569	13.1
26 - 50%	2,070	27.7	86	5.9	146	7.5	1,561	35.9
51 - 75%	2,431	32.6	566	38.6	807	41.3	1,406	32.4
76 - 100%	1,492	20.0	603	41.1	744	38.1	636	14.7
101 - 125%	375	5.0	155	10.6	186	9.5	168	3.9
126 - 130%	13	.2	5	.3	7	.3	5	.1
131 - 150%	9	.1	4	.3	8	.4	1	*
151% or more	2	*	1	*	1	*	**	*
Unknown	19	--	1	--	2	--	13	--
Total	7,487	100.0	1,469	100.0	1,957	100.0	4,360	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

A). ^aDefined as the Census Bureau's 1982 poverty income guidelines for nonfarm families (see Appendix

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more or with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^ePercent of those households with known income.

*Less than .05 percent.

**Less than 500 households.

Table 10

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Net Income As a Percentage of the Poverty Line ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c		Households With Children ^d	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
25% or less	3,487	46.7	355	24.2	487	24.9	2,041	46.9
26 - 50%	2,325	31.1	524	35.7	721	36.9	1,496	34.4
51 - 75%	1,348	18.0	464	31.6	589	30.1	643	14.8
76 - 100%	304	4.1	121	8.3	154	7.9	165	3.8
101 - 125%	6	.1	1	.1	1	.1	4	.1
126 - 130%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
131 - 150%	1	*	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
151% or more	1	*	1	.1	1	.1	0	0.0
Unknown	15	--	1	--	3	--	10	--
Total	7,487	100.0	1,469	100.0	1,957	100.0	4,360	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aDefined as the Census Bureau's 1982 poverty income guidelines for nonfarm families (see Appendix A).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more or with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^ePercent of those households with known income.

Table 11

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING AND VALUE OF
DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Type of Deduction	Number of Households Claiming Deduction (000)	Percent of All Households ^d	Average Amount of Deduction	
			Over Claiming Households	Over all Households
Earned Income	1,316	17.6%	\$81	\$14
Dependent Care ^a	119	1.7	84	1
Shelter ^a	4,820	66.8	85	57
Medical ^b	163	2.2	51	1
Total ^c	7,487	100.0	159	159

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^cIncludes standard deduction for all households (see Appendix C).

^dPercent of households with known deduction information.

Table 12
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF TOTAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Total Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
\$ 0 - 50	0	0.0%
51 - 100	2,161	30.0
101 - 150	1,260	17.5
151 - 200	2,611	36.2
201 - 250	605	8.4
251 - 300	356	4.9
300+	220	3.1
Unknown	273	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$159	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those households with known deductions.

Table 13

**AVERAGE TOTAL DEDUCTION^a FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS BY
GROSS MONTHLY INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Total Deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$126	161	165	152	166	165	123	146	\$142
\$ 1- 99	137	170	160	153	168	156	--	--	146
100-199	170	167	163	170	177	184	200	--	168
200-299	151	158	160	162	187	168	158	150	156
300-399	139	161	156	149	156	137	176	134	150
400-499	141	144	162	147	135	154	166	128	147
500-599	177	170	171	166	188	132	131	127	166
600-699	96	204	171	156	159	152	202	162	164
700-799	--	258	233	205	174	150	203	179	193
800-899	--	233	*	239	219	203	168	146	208
900-999	--	--	--	261	204	201	151	162	207
1000 +	*	--	--	294	313	210	262	236	244
Average Total Deduction	\$147	159	164	163	173	161	183	164	\$159

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aTotal deduction includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

*Average deduction was not computed for categories with less than 500 households.

--No households in this category.

Table 14

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EARNED INCOME
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households with:	Number of Households Total	With Deduction	Percent of Households ^f	Average Amount of Deduction With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^a	1,469	94	6.4%	\$40	\$3
Children ^b	4,360	978	22.5	94	21
Disabled ^c	491	36	7.3	51	4
Earned Income ^d	1,316	1,316	100.0	81	81
Public Assistance ^e	3,797	270	7.1	67	5
Total	7,487	1,316	17.6	81	14

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^cHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^ePublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^fPercent of households with known earnings deduction.

Table 15

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION

Amount of Earned Income Deduction	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
None	6,157	82.4%
\$ 1 - 50	440	5.9
51 - 100	369	4.9
101 - 150	402	5.4
151 - 200	84	1.1
201 - 250	17	0.2
251 - 300	2	*
300+	1	*
Unknown	15	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$81	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those households with known earned income deduction.

*Less than .05 percent.

Table 16

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING DEPENDENT CARE^a
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households with:	Number of Households Total	With Deduction	Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction With Deduction	of Deduction All Households
Elderly ^b	1,469	5	0.4%	\$37	**
Children ^c	4,360	111	2.6	86	2
Disabled ^d	491	2	0.3	27	**
Earned Income ^e	1,316	113	8.8	84	7
Public Assistance ^f	3,797	34	0.9	78	1
Total	7,487	119	1.6	84	1

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gPercent of households with known dependent care deduction.

**Less than 50 cents.

Table 17

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION

Amount of Dependent Care Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	7,137	98.3%
\$ 1 - 50	25	0.3
51 - 100	40	0.6
101 - 150	55	0.8
151 - 200	0	0.0
201 - 250	0	0.0
251 - 300	0	0.0
300+	0	0.0
Unknown	230	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$84	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those households with known dependent care deduction.

Table 18

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EXCESS SHELTER^a
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total	With Deduction		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^b	1,469	833	57.9%	\$81	\$47
Children ^c	4,360	2,818	67.4	85	57
Disabled ^d	491	271	56.0	97	54
Earned Income ^e	1,316	766	60.5	84	51
Public Assistance ^f	3,797	2,708	73.1	84	61
Total	7,487	4,820	66.8	85	57

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gPercent of households with known excess shelter deduction.

Table 19

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

Amount of Excess Shelter Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	2,395	33.2%
\$ 1 - 50	1,253	17.4
51 - 100	1,275	17.7
101 - 150	2,106	29.2
151 - 200	92	1.3
201 - 250	52	0.7
251 - 300	31	0.4
300+	12	0.2
Unknown	2/2	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$85	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care deduction and excess shelter deduction is subject to a limit except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments (see Appendix C).

^bPercent of those with known deductions.

Table 20

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY VALUE OF
COMBINED DEPENDENT CARE/EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

Value of Combined Dependent Care/ Excess Shelter Deduction ^a	All Households		Households with Elderly ^b		Households with Children ^c		Households with Disabled ^d		Households with Earned Income ^e		Households with Public Assistance ^f	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g
None	2,335	32.4%	604	42.0%	1,308	31.3%	212	43.9%	440	34.8%	981	26.5%
Less than cap	2,845	39.4	628	43.7	1,531	36.6	188	38.8	419	33.1	1,572	42.5
Equal to cap	1,740	24.1	*	**	1,291	30.9	2	0.4	376	29.7	1,087	29.3
Greater than cap	295	4.1	206	14.3	53	1.3	82	16.9	30	2.4	63	1.7
Unknown	272	--	32	--	177	--	8	--	50	--	94	--
Total	7,487	100.0	1,469	100.0	4,360	100.0	491	100.0	1,316	100.0	3,797	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aCombined total of dependent care and excess shelter deduction is capped at a level which varies by area (see Appendix D) except for households where at least one member is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gPercent of those households with known information on dependent care/excess shelter deductions.

*Less than 500 households.

**Less than .05 percent.

Table 21

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING MEDICAL
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED^a**

Households With:	Number of Households Total	With Deduction	Percent of Households ^g	Average Amount of Deduction With Deduction	All Households
Elderly ^b	1,469	153	10.6%	\$50	\$5
Children ^c	4,360	18	0.4	49	*
Disabled ^d	491	10	2.1	65	1
Earned Income ^e	1,316	6	0.5	29	*
Public Assistance ^f	3,797	8	0.2	51	*
Total	7,487	163	2.2	51	1

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^eEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment and farm income.

^fPublic assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

^gPercent of households with known medical deduction.

*Less than 50 cents.

Table 22
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT
OF MEDICAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Medical Deduction ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
None	7,290	97.8%
\$ 1 - 50	107	1.4
51 - 100	39	0.5
101 - 150	7	0.1
151 - 200	6	0.1
201 - 250	1	*
251 - 300	**	*
300+	2	*
Unknown	34	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$51	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aAvailable only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

^bPercent of those with known deductions.

*Less than 0.05 percent.

**Less than 500 households.

Table 23

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT OF
MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT

Amount of Monthly Benefit ^a	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
\$ 10 or less	583	7.8%
11 - 25	444	5.9
26 - 50	774	10.3
51 - 75	1,513	20.2
76 - 100	764	10.2
101 - 150	1,655	22.1
151 - 200	1,002	13.4
201 - 300	601	8.0
301 or more	143	1.9
Unknown	7	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Benefit	\$105	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aThe maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see Appendix D).

^bPercent of those households with known benefit amount.

Table 24

**AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT BY GROSS MONTHLY
INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Benefit Per Household
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$65	115	165	225	269	333	319	317	\$125
\$ 1- 99	70	124	173	226	269	332	--	--	110
100-199	67	121	176	220	263	330	367	--	113
200-299	35	103	157	207	247	311	329	434	98
300-399	23	79	129	173	214	272	319	381	97
400-499	16	43	99	149	190	235	268	334	101
500-599	21	29	75	124	165	218	251	317	110
600-699	21	23	54	98	131	193	237	333	104
700-799	--	10	43	76	114	153	200	313	118
800-899	--	101	42	55	92	138	163	324	119
900-999	--	--	--	34	58	112	133	212	89
1000 +	*	--	--	38	55	74	81	191	105
Average Benefit per Household	\$43	82	121	147	166	201	217	303	\$105

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

*Average benefit was not computed for categories with less than 500 households.

--No households in this category.

Table 25

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL COUNTABLE
RESOURCES FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSEHOLDS WITH
ELDERLY OR DISABLED

Value of Countable Resources ^a	All Households		Households With Elderly ^b		Households With Elderly or Disabled ^c	
	Number (000)	Percent ^d	Number (000)	Percent ^d	Number (000)	Percent ^d
None	5,523	75.2%	914	62.7%	1,283	66.2%
\$ 1 - 500	1,545	21.0	402	27.5	499	25.8
501 - 1,000	174	2.4	81	5.5	90	4.6
1,000 - 1,500	81	1.1	43	3.0	48	2.5
1,501 - 1,750	8	0.1	8	0.6	8	0.4
1,751 - 2,000	3	*	2	0.2	2	0.1
2,001 - 3,000	10	0.1	8	0.6	8	0.4
Unknown	142	--	11	--	19	--
Total	7,487	100.0	1,469	100.0	1,957	100.0
Average Value	\$58		145		122	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aStatutory requirements in effect in August 1982 included as "countable" resources all types of assets except (1) equity in a home and (2) certain specified resources that cannot be readily liquidated or that are needed for employment or self-employment. At the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$1,500. Households of two or more, at least one of whom was age 60 or older, were allowed up to \$3,000.

^bHouseholds with at least one person age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one person age 60 or more or with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^dPercent of those with known countable resources.

*Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 26
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
TYPE OF MOST RECENT ACTION

Most Recent Action	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
Initial Certification ^a	1,783	23.9%
Recertification	5,665	76.1
Unknown	39	--
Total	7,487	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

^bPercent of those households with known most recent action.

Table 27

COMPARISON OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EXPEDITED SERVICE BY PRESENCE OF GROSS AND
NET MONTHLY INCOME

	Households With Expedited Service ^a		Households Without Expedited Service		Unknown	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Gross Income = 0	177	50.3%	396	5.6%	7	10.2%
Gross Income > 0	175	49.7	6,650	94.4	63	89.8
Net Income = 0	241	68.3	1,157	16.4	14	20.7
Net Income > 0	112	31.7	5,889	83.6	55	79.3
Total	352	100.0	7,046	100.0	70	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in August 1982.

Table 28
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY LENGTH OF
CERTIFICATION PERIOD

Months in Certification Period	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^a
1	212	2.8
2	303	4.1
3	993	13.4
4	439	5.9
5	239	3.2
6	1,725	23.2
7	437	5.9
8	166	2.2
9	85	1.1
10	94	1.3
11	155	2.1
12+	2,574	34.6
Unknown	65	--
Total	7,487	100.0
Average Length	7.5	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those households with known certification periods.

Table 29
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size	All Households		Households with Elderly		Households with Earnings		Households With Children ^b	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
1	2,267	30.3%	1,004	68.3%	171	13.0%	21	0.5%
2	1,567	20.9	289	19.7	201	15.3	992	22.8
3	1,453	19.4	92	6.3	288	21.9	1,321	30.3
4	1,050	14.0	36	2.4	244	18.6	948	21.7
5	594	7.9	19	1.3	192	14.6	540	12.4
6	285	3.8	14	1.0	98	7.5	276	6.3
7	133	1.8	4	0.3	62	4.7	127	2.9
8+	139	1.9	10	0.7	59	4.5	135	3.1
Total	7,487	100.0	1,469	100.0	1,316	100.0	4,360	100.0
Average Size	2.8		1.6		3.7		3.7	

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

Table 30
AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS OF
PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Households with Elderly ^a	1,469	19.6%
Single person elderly households ^b	1,004	13.4
Headed by female	824	11.0
Headed by male	176	2.4
Unknown	4	0.1
Other elderly households ^c	465	6.2
Headed by female	192	2.6
Headed by male	272	3.6
Unknown	1	*
Households with Children ^d	4,360	58.2
Headed by female	3,363	44.9
Headed by male	986	13.2
Unknown	10	0.1
Households with Disabled ^e	491	6.6
Headed by female	337	4.5
Headed by male	140	1.9
Unknown	13	0.2

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

^cIncludes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^eHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

* Less than 0.05 percent.

Table 31

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE,
NUMBER OF ELDERLY, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND NUMBER
OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

	Household Size								Number of Households (000)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of Elderly ^a									
0	1,263	1,278	1,361	1,014	575	270	128	129	6,018
1	1,004	131	67	26	15	14	4	9	1,270
2	0	158	22	10	4	1	0	1	196
3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Number of Children ^b									
0	2,246	575	132	102	54	9	6	4	3,127
1	21	972	381	56	20	5	0	1	1,456
2	0	20	925	378	70	22	3	0	1,417
3	0	0	16	512	286	39	5	17	875
4	0	0	0	2	164	142	30	10	348
5+	0	0	0	0	0	68	88	106	262
Number of School Age Children ^c									
0	2,258	1,044	506	252	85	18	8	5	4,176
1	9	518	466	232	98	26	5	10	1,364
2	0	5	477	336	177	60	12	11	1,078
3	0	0	4	230	168	82	27	20	531
4	0	0	0	0	66	79	40	22	206
5+	0	0	0	0	0	20	41	70	132
Total	2,267	1,567	1,453	1,050	594	285	133	139	7,487

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPersons age 60 or more.

^bPersons age 17 or less.

^cPersons age 5 to 17.

Table 32
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND SEX

Age	Female		Male		All Participants ^a	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Number (000)	Percent ^b
4 or less	1,496	13.1%	1,587	20.0%	3,092	15.9%
5 - 17	3,323	29.1	3,333	42.0	6,660	34.3
18 - 35	3,627	31.8	1,538	19.4	5,167	26.6
36 - 59	1,810	15.8	984	12.4	2,799	14.4
60 or more	1,169	10.2	497	6.3	1,671	8.6
Unknown	769	--	482	--	1,322	--
Total	12,193	100.0	8,421	100.0	20,713	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aTotal number of participants includes approximately 99,000 participants whose sex was not recorded.

^bPercent of those participants with known ages.

Table 33
AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants ^d
A. <u>Children^a</u>	<u>9,754</u>	<u>50.3</u>
1. <u>Preschool children</u>	<u>3,092</u>	<u>16.0%</u>
2. <u>School age children</u>	<u>6,662</u>	<u>34.4</u>
B. <u>Adults^b</u>		
1. <u>Parents</u>		
a. <u>Single parents</u>	<u>2,713</u>	<u>14.0</u>
Living with elderly	73	.4
Disabled	95	.5
Other	2,545	13.1
b. <u>Multiple parents</u>	<u>3,436</u>	<u>17.7</u>
Living with elderly	87	.4
Disabled	110	.6
Living with disabled	155	.8
Other	3,084	15.9
2. <u>Non Parents</u>		
a. <u>Single adults</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>6.3</u>
Living with elderly	123	.6
Disabled	216	1.1
Other	891	4.6
b. <u>Multiple adults</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>3.0</u>
Living with elderly	39	.2
Disabled	49	.3
Living with disabled	67	.3
Other	422	2.2
C. <u>Elderly^c</u>	<u>1,671</u>	<u>8.6</u>
D. <u>Age Unknown</u>	<u>1,322</u>	--
E. <u>Other Characteristics Unknown</u>	<u>10</u>	--
<u>Total</u>	<u>20,713</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPersons age 17 or less.

^bPersons age 18 to 59.

^cPersons age 60 or more.

^dPercent of those with known age and related characteristics.

Table 34

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE
OR ETHNIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Race/Ethnic Origin of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of Households ^a
Black	2,774	37.9%
White	3,478	47.5
Hispanic	770	10.5
American Indian	85	1.2
Other	211	2.9
Unknown	169	--
Total	7,487	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aPercent of those with known race or ethnic origin.

Table 35

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Households with at Least One:	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^b
Alien	337	4.5%
Migrant	16	0.2
Military	12	0.2
Striker	9	0.1
Student ^a	83	1.1

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHousehold members 18 years of age or older enrolled at least half-time in recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^bPercent of all households with known characteristics.

Table 36
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY EMPLOYMENT
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Employment Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households ^c
Employed Full Time ^a	559	7.7
Employed Part Time ^b	308	4.2
Self-Employed	62	0.9
Farm Employed	15	0.2
Not Employed	6,315	87.0
Unknown	228	--
Total	7,487	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEmployed at least 30 hours per week.

^bEmployed less than 30 hours per week.

^cPercent of those with known employment status.

Table 37

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY WORK REGISTRATION
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Work Registration Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of Households ^d
Required to register for work	1,281	17.3%
Exempt from work registration:	6,127	82.7
Less than 18 or over 60 years old	1,397	18.9
Disabled	887	12.0
WIN participant	502	6.8
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	2,588	34.9
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	223	3.0
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	21	0.3
Employed full-time ^b	492	6.6
Student ^c	17	0.2
Unknown	79	--
Total	7,487	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 12 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dPercent of those with known work registration status of household head.

Table 38

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY WORK REGISTRATION STATUS

Work Registration Status	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants ^d
Required to register for work	2,130	10.4%
Exempt from work registration:	18,339	89.6
Less than 18 or over 60 years old	11,865	58.0
Disabled	1,155	5.6
WIN participant	598	2.9
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult ^a	3,629	17.7
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	272	1.3
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	26	.1
Employed full-time ^b	689	3.4
Student ^c	104	.5
Unknown	245	--
Total	20,713	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aIncludes both caretakers of children under 12 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

^bEmployed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

^cEnrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

^dPercent of those with known work registration status.

Table 39

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS
FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Value (000)	Percent ^b
Households With Earned Income ^a	1,316	17.6%	\$152,297	19.5%
Households With No Earned Income	6,157	82.4	628,254	80.5
Unknown	15	--	1,649	--
Total	7,487	100.0	782,201	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^bPercent of those with known income status.

Table 40
AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME^a

	Households With Earned Income ^b	Households With No Earned Income
Gross Monthly Income	\$543	\$316
Net Monthly Income	\$327	\$179
Total Deductions ^c	\$224	\$145
Countable Resources	\$ 68	\$ 56
Monthly Benefit	\$116	\$102
Household Size	3.7	2.6
Certification Period (months)	5.4	8.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 41

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EARNED INCOME FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS^a

Households With:	Households With Earned Income ^b		Households With No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent ^g	Number (000)	Percent ^g
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0%	579	9.4%
Zero Net Income	182	13.8	1,231	20.0
Minimum Benefit ^c	21	2.1	537	8.7
Elderly ^d	94	7.1	1,373	22.3
Children ^e	978	74.3	3,371	54.8
School Age Children ^f	792	60.2	2,509	40.8

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

^cMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^eHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^fHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^gPercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Table 42

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT
EARNED INCOME^a

	Households with Earned Income ^b		Households with No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	373	28.3%	3,454	56.2
3 - 4	532	40.4	1,966	32.0
5+	411	31.2	730	11.9
Gross Income				
None	1	0.1	579	9.4
\$ 1 - 99	55	4.2	143	2.3
100 - 199	108	8.2	707	11.5
200 - 299	113	8.6	1,464	23.8
300 - 399	150	11.4	1,531	24.9
400 - 499	136	10.3	847	13.8
500+	753	57.3	879	14.3
Net Income				
None	182	13.8	1,231	20.0
\$ 1 - 99	126	9.6	1,120	18.2
100 - 199	150	11.4	1,448	23.6
200 - 299	192	14.6	1,071	17.4
300 - 399	190	14.4	639	10.4
400 - 499	177	13.5	319	5.2
500+	299	22.7	323	5.3
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	32	2.5	550	8.9
11 - 50	172	13.1	1,044	17.0
51 - 100	455	34.6	1,821	29.6
101 - 200	497	37.8	2,158	35.1
201 - 300	120	9.1	476	7.7
301+	39	3.0	103	1.7
Total	1,316	100.0	6,157	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aExcludes households where presence of earned income is not known.

^bEarned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, and farm income.

Table 43

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND NO ELDERLY

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Elderly ^a	1,469	19.6%	\$60,442	7.7%
Households With No Elderly	6,018	80.4	721,759	92.3
Total	7,487	100.0	782,201	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Table 44
AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND NO ELDERLY

	Households With Elderly ^a	Households With No Elderly
Gross Monthly Income	\$360	\$355
Net Monthly Income	\$216	\$202
Total Deductions ^b	\$140	\$163
Countable Resources ^c	\$145	\$ 37
Monthly Benefit	\$ 41	\$120
Household Size	1.6	3.1
Certification Period (months)	10.2	6.9

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

^cAt the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$1,500. Households of two or more, at least one of whom was age 60 or older, were allowed up to \$3,000.

Table 45

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND
NO ELDERLY FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households with:	Households With Elderly ^a		Households With No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent ^e	Number (000)	Percent ^e
Zero Gross Income	25	1.7	555	9.2
Zero Net Income	107	7.3	1,305	21.7
Minimum Benefit ^b	433	29.5	131	2.2
Children ^c	162	11.0	4,198	69.8
School Age Children ^d	149	10.2	3,162	52.5

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^ePercent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Table 46

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY
AND NO ELDERLY

	Households with Elderly ^a		Households with No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	1,292	88.0%	2,536	42.3
3 - 4	128	8.7	2,371	39.5
5+	48	3.3	1,094	18.2
Gross Income				
None	25	1.7	555	9.3
\$ 1 - 99	16	1.1	182	3.0
100 - 199	43	2.9	772	12.9
200 - 299	396	27.0	1,181	19.7
300 - 399	558	38.1	1,123	18.7
400 - 499	253	17.3	729	12.2
500+	176	12.0	1,458	24.3
Net Income				
None	107	7.3	1,304	21.7
\$ 1 - 99	212	14.4	1,034	17.2
100 - 199	419	28.6	1,179	19.7
200 - 299	393	26.8	870	14.5
300 - 399	210	14.3	620	10.3
400 - 499	66	4.5	430	7.2
500+	59	4.0	562	9.4
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	437	29.8	1,145	2.4
11 - 50	598	40.1	618	10.3
51 - 100	303	20.6	1,974	32.9
101 - 200	114	7.8	2,541	42.4
201 - 300	9	0.6	587	9.8
301+	7	0.5	136	2.3
Total	1,469	100.0	6,018	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

Table 47

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND NO DISABLED

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent ^b	Value (000)	Percent ^b
Households With Disabled ^a	491	6.6%	\$35,116	4.5%
Households With No Disabled	6,984	93.4	745,818	95.5
Unknown	12	--	1,267	--
Total	7,487	100.0	782,201	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bPercent of those households with known disability status of members.

Table 48
AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND NO DISABLED

	Households With Disabled ^a	Households With No Disabled
Gross Monthly Income	\$418	\$352
Net Monthly Income	\$259	\$201
Total Deduction ^b	\$144	\$160
Countable Resources	\$59	\$58
Monthly Benefit	\$72	\$107
Household Size (persons)	2.5	2.8
Certification Period (months)	8.9	7.5

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 49

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED AND
NO DISABLED FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Disabled ^a		Households With No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0%	580	8.3%
Zero Net Income	34	6.8	1,379	19.8
Minimum Benefit ^b	67	13.6	497	7.1
Children ^c	207	42.2	4,145	59.3
School Age Children ^d	182	37.1	3,122	44.7

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

^bMinimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 50

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED
AND NO DISABLED

	Households With Disabled ^a		Households With No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	300	61.2%	3,527	50.6%
3 - 4	115	23.4	2,384	34.2
5+	76	15.4	1,067	15.3
Gross Income				
None	*	*	580	8.3
\$ 1 - 99	**	0.1	197	2.8
100 - 199	11	2.3	804	11.5
200 - 299	163	33.2	1,415	20.3
300 - 399	109	22.3	1,572	22.5
400 - 499	69	14.1	914	13.1
500+	138	28.1	1,496	21.4
Net Income				
None	34	6.8	1,378	19.8
\$ 1 - 99	70	14.3	1,176	16.9
100 - 199	134	27.3	1,464	21.0
200 - 299	79	16.1	1,184	17.0
300 - 399	65	13.3	765	11.0
400 - 499	53	10.7	444	6.4
500+	56	11.5	565	8.1
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	67	13.6	515	7.4
11 - 50	174	35.4	1,042	14.9
51 - 100	136	27.7	2,140	30.7
101 - 200	89	18.1	2,566	36.8
201 - 301	21	4.3	575	8.2
301+	4	0.8	139	2.0
Total	491	100.0	6,984	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

*Less than 500 households.

Table 51

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE
CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Children ^a	4,360	58.2%	620,032	79.3%
Households With School Age Children ^b	3,311	44.2	496,648	63.5
Households With No Children	3,127	41.8	162,169	20.7
Total	7,487	100.0	782,201	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 52

AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, AND
NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children ^a	Households With School Age Children ^b	Households With No Children
Gross Monthly Income	\$406	\$431	\$287
Net Monthly Income	\$240	\$263	\$156
Total Deductions ^c	\$166	\$166	\$148
Countable Resources	\$ 36	\$ 40	\$ 90
Monthly Benefit	\$142	\$150	\$ 52
Household Size	3.7	4.0	1.5
Certification Period	6.6	6.5	8.9

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 53

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE
CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households with:	Households With Children ^c		Households With School Children ^d		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Zero Gross Income	230	5.3	169	5.1	350	11.2
Zero Net Income	561	12.9	392	11.8	851	27.2
Minimum Benefit ^a	23	0.5	13	0.4	541	17.3
Elderly ^b	162	3.7	149	4.5	1,307	41.8
School Age Children ^d	3,311	75.9	3,311	100.0	0	0.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

^aMinimum benefit is \$10 for one and two person households.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cHouseholds with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dHouseholds with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Table 54

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS
FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children		Households With School Age Children		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Household Size						
1 - 2	1,012	23.3	532	16.1	2,815	90.2
3 - 4	2,265	52.1	1,741	52.8	234	7.5
5+	1,069	24.6	1,026	31.1	73	2.3
Gross Income						
None	230	5.3	169	5.1	350	11.2
\$ 1 - 99	63	1.4	41	1.3	135	4.3
100 - 199	357	8.2	223	6.8	458	14.7
200 - 299	830	19.1	528	16.0	748	24.0
300 - 399	968	22.3	719	21.8	713	22.8
400 - 499	615	14.2	516	15.6	368	11.8
500+	1,283	29.5	1,102	33.4	350	11.2
Net Income						
None	561	12.9	392	11.9	851	27.3
\$ 1 - 99	721	16.6	454	13.8	526	16.9
100 - 199	930	21.4	640	19.4	668	21.4
200 - 299	730	16.8	595	18.0	534	17.1
300 - 399	526	12.1	452	13.7	304	9.8
400 - 499	365	8.4	307	9.3	131	4.2
500+	514	11.8	459	13.9	108	3.4
Benefits						
\$ 10 or less	33	0.8	21	0.6	549	17.6
11 - 50	229	5.3	179	5.4	986	31.6
51 - 100	991	22.8	641	19.4	1,286	41.2
101 - 200	2,365	54.4	1,784	54.1	290	9.3
201 - 300	588	13.5	535	16.2	8	0.3
301+	141	3.3	138	4.2	2	0.1
Total	4,360	100.0	3,311	100.0	3,127	100.0

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 55

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR:
AUGUST 1982, AUGUST 1981, AUGUST 1980, AND NOVEMBER 1979

	November 1979	August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982
Gross Monthly Income	\$314	\$326	\$349	\$356
Net Monthly Income	\$196	\$194	\$196	\$205
Total Deduction	\$132 ^b	\$148 ^c	\$169 ^d	\$159 ^d
Countable Resources	\$ 65	\$ 66	\$ 62	\$ 58
Monthly Benefit	\$ 82	\$ 89	\$103	\$105
Household Size	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1981 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1980 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
November 1979 Survey of Food Stamp Household Characteristics.

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, and \$70 standard deduction.

^cIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and \$75 standard deduction.

^dIncludes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deduction (see Appendix C).

Table 56

COMPARISON OF PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR AUGUST 1982, AUGUST 1981,
AUGUST 1980, AND NOVEMBER 1979

Households with:	November 1979	Percent of All Households		
		August 1980 ^a	August 1981	August 1982
Zero Gross Income	6.9%	8.1%	7.3%	7.8%
Zero Net Income	12.6	16.6	18.7	18.9
Minimum Benefit	7.8	6.9	5.6	7.5
Elderly ^b	24.2	22.6	20.9	19.6
Children ^c	51.4	59.9	56.4	58.2
School Age Children ^d	38.5	44.4	41.5	44.2

Source: August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1981 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
August 1980 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.
November 1979 Survey of Food Stamp Household Characteristics.

^aExcludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^bHouseholds with at least one member age 60 or more.

^cIn November 1979, households of three or more, at least one of whom is age 17 or less.
In August 1980, 1981 and 1982, households with at least one member age 17 or less.

^dIn November 1979, households of three or more, at least one of whom is age 5 to 17.
In August 1980, 1981 and 1982, households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Appendix A
Office of Management and Budget and Bureau of the Census
Poverty Income Guidelines^a

OMB

Household Size	Continental U.S.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 4,680	\$ 5,880	\$ 5,360
2	6,220	7,800	7,140
3	7,760	9,720	8,920
4	9,300	11,640	10,700
5	10,840	13,560	12,480
6	12,380	15,480	14,260
7	13,920	17,400	16,040
8 ^b	15,460	19,320	17,820

Bureau of the Census

Household Size	Annual Income Continental U.S.	Monthly Equivalent
1	\$ 4,901	\$ 408
2	6,281	523
3	7,693	641
4	9,862	822
5	11,684	974
6	13,207	1,101
7	15,036	1,253
8	16,719	1,393
9+	19,698	1,642

Source: Office of Management and Budget; Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

^a Annual income for nonfarm families.

^b For households with more than eight members, add \$1,540 in the Continental U.S.; \$1,920 in Alaska; and \$1,780 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Appendix 8

Maximum Allowable Net and Gross Monthly Food Stamp Income
Eligibility Standards in August 1982^a

Household Size	Continental U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands		Alaska		Hawaii	
	Net Income	Gross Income	Net Income	Gross Income	Net Income	Gross Income
1	\$ 390	\$ 507	\$ 490	\$ 637	\$ 450	\$ 585
2	519	675	650	845	597	776
3	647	841	810	1,053	745	969
4	775	1,008	970	1,261	892	1,160
5	704	1,175	1,130	1,469	1,040	1,352
6	1,032	1,342	1,290	1,677	1,187	1,543
7	1,180	1,534	1,450	1,885	1,335	1,736
8 ^b	1,289	1,676	1,610	2,093	1,482	1,927

Source: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

^a The food stamp net income standards are equal to the OMB poverty income guidelines (Appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar. Gross income standards are equal to 130 percent of net income standards.

^b For households with more than eight members, add \$129 in the Continental U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$160 in Alaska; and \$142 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Appendix C

Value of Standard and Maximum Dependent Care/
Excess Shelter Deductions in Continental United
States and Outlying Areas in August 1982

Area	Standard	Dependent Care/ Excess Shelter ^a
Continental U.S.	\$ 85	\$115
Alaska	145	200
Hawaii	120	165
Guam	170	140
Virgin Islands	75	85

Source: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

^a Limit on combined dependent care/excess shelter deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

Appendix D

Value of Maximum Coupon Allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in
Continental United States and Outlying Areas
in August 1982

Household Size	Continental United States ^a	Alaska	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	\$ 70	\$108	\$ 95	\$101	\$ 88
2	128	197	175	185	161
3	183	293	250	265	230
4	233	359	318	337	292
5	277	426	378	400	347
6	332	512	453	480	416
7	367	565	501	531	460
8 ^b	419	646	572	607	526

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

^a Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

^b For households with more than eight members, add \$53 in the Continental United States, \$81 in Alaska, \$72 in Hawaii, \$76 in Guam, and \$66 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person.

APPENDIX E

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the Food Stamp Quality Control (QC) System. This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible for participation and receiving the correct coupon allotment or (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 45,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every six months. The national sample of participating households is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Semiannual State samples range from a minimum of 150 to a maximum of 1200 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month whose size is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.¹ The survey reported here relies on the August 1982 Food Stamp Quality Control sample of participating households.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in August 1982 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The August 1982 participating caseload in Guam and the Virgin Islands was also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State, received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS, received benefits under a 60-day continuation of certification, were under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings), were appealing a

¹ Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

notice of adverse action when the review date fell within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe is the food stamp household as defined in a State manual.

Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 6,936 valid observations.² The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households in August 1982 as reported in the Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations: August 1982 (April 12, 1983). The case record weights in Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, and Wisconsin were adjusted to reflect the disproportionate integrated QC sample designs in those States. Further adjustments were made to account for missing data from Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota and Texas.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following table presents a comparison of the preliminary estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands) in the Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations for August 1982 (April 12, 1983):

	Statistical Summary of Operations	August 1982 QC Sample
Number of Households ³	7,487,161	7,486,90
Number of Participants	20,434,414	20,713,599
Value of Benefits	786,580,763	782,201,629
Average Household Size	2.73	2.78
Average Bonus per Person	\$ 38.49	\$ 37.62

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed

² Approximately 21 cases were deleted from the sample because they contained incomplete or inconsistent information. Sample weights were adjusted proportionately within each State to account for these deletions.

³ This estimate was constrained by an adjustment to the sample weights.

households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the August 1982 sample (equal to one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during April-September 1982), the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

50 States and D.C.

Number of cases selected subject to review	8,402
Number of cases completed	6,946
Estimated completion rate	82.6 %

This rate compares quite favorably with other surveys of this nature.